

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: CO-120-2008-54-CX

PROJECT NAME: Gore Canyon Race

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T 1N, R 80W, sec 19
T 1N, R 81W, sec 13, 23, 24, 27, 28, 32, 33
T 1S, R 81W, sec 6, 7, 12

APPLICANT: Lisa Reeder

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: The Proposed Action would be to issue a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) authorizing the proponent to conduct a whitewater raft and kayak race on the Upper Colorado River in Gore Canyon, between the Confluence Recreation Site (Confluence) and the Pumphouse Recreation Site (Pumphouse). (See map below).

The race would be conducted on August 16, 2008. The BLM would close the Confluence access road from Grand County Road 1 (Trough Road) during the morning of the race and the Launch #3 area at the Pumphouse from the evening of August 15th through the morning of August 17th to the general public.

The permit would authorize use by event organizers and spectators to use the Gore Canyon Trail to access the rapids in the lower reaches of Gore Canyon. The permit would include the following special stipulations:

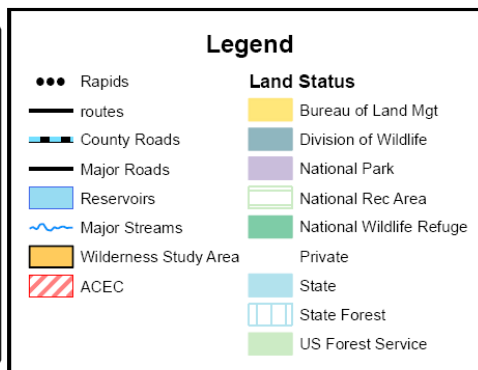
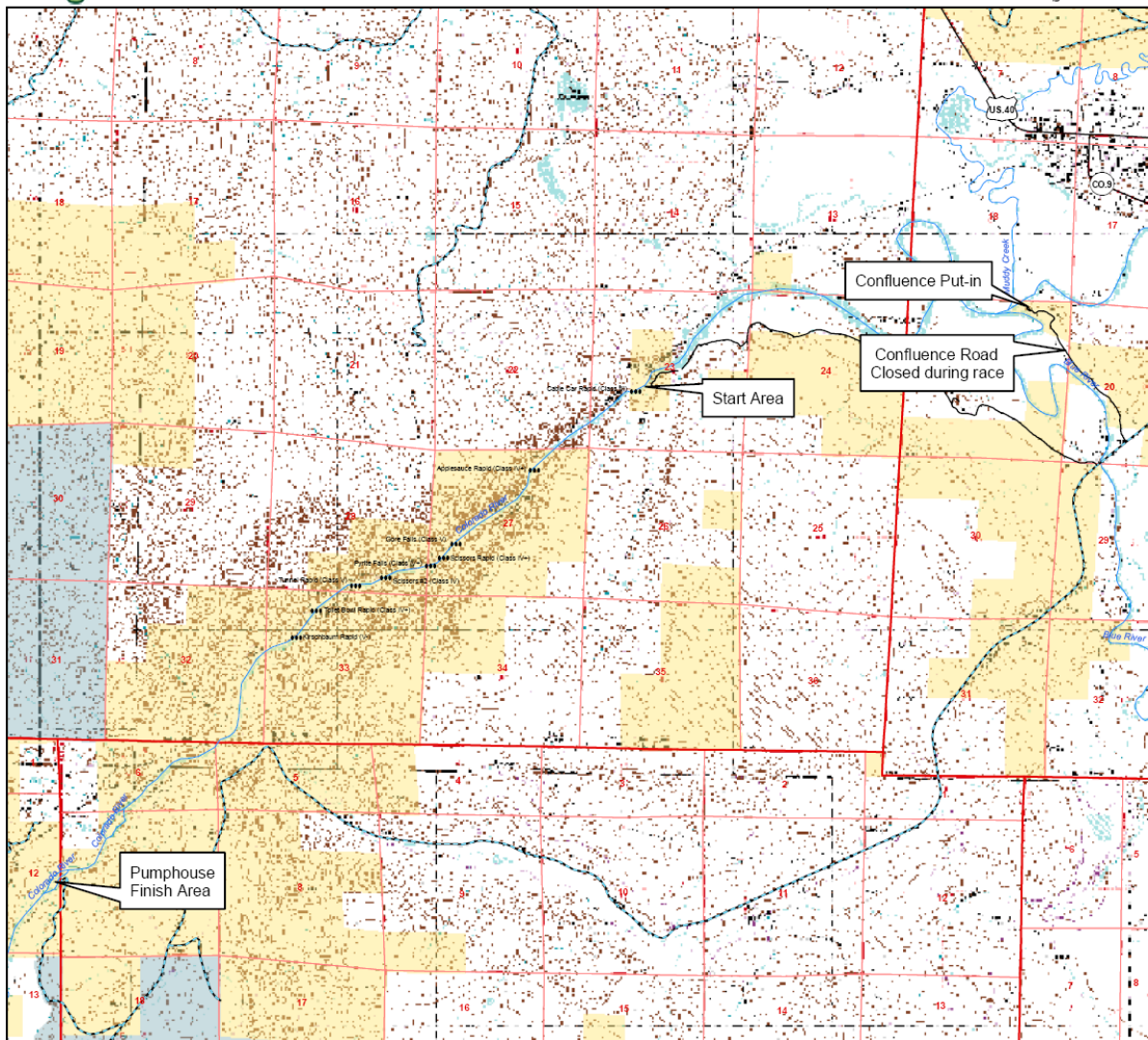
- 1) The event will be conducted in accordance with the Event Management Plan on file at the Kremmling Field Office (see attached).
- 2) Traffic management and parking will be managed in accordance with the Traffic/Parking Plan on file at the Kremmling Field Office (see attached).
- 3) This permit only authorizes use on river left in Gore Canyon. Any use of river right by representatives of this event will be considered a violation of the stipulations of this permit.

The proponent estimates there would be 250 participants and 250 spectators. Parking for the participants and spectators would be at the Launch #3 site and at a designated overflow parking area identified on the map below. Shuttle vehicles would be used to move the necessary participants from Pumphouse to the launch site at the Confluence. Shuttle vehicles would also be used to move people from Pumphouse to the overflow parking area.

The Kremmling Chamber of Commerce would host a gathering at the park adjacent to the Kremmling Chamber building in Kremmling on the evening of the race. Shuttle vehicles would be used to move people from Kremmling to Pumphouse during the evening hours (see Attachment #2 for Event Management Plan and Attachment #3 Traffic/Parking Plan & Maps).



Gore Canyon Race 2008



0 0.3 0.6 1.2 Miles

1:57,000

No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the Accuracy, Reliability, or Completeness of this Data for Individual Use or Aggregate Use with Other Data.

Maps: BLM, Kremmling FO XX/XX/2007

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP), Record of Decision (ROD)

Date Approved: December 19, 1984; Updated February 1999

Decision Number/Page: Decision #7; Page 11

Decision Language: “To ensure the continued availability of outdoor recreational opportunities which the public seeks and which are not readily available from other sources ...”

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11, Number: (H)(1), “*Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 staging areas; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan.*” None of the following extraordinary circumstances in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Extraordinary Circumstances	Yes	No
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety		X
2.2 Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2)(E)].		X
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
2.8 Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X

2.9 Violate a Federal Law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		X
2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		X

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility	Date Review Completed
Frank G. Rupp	Archaeologist	Paleontology	6/19/08
Bill B. Wyatt	Fire Archaeologist	Archaeology	7/3/08
Paula Belcher	Hydrologist	Soil, Water, Air, Riparian	7/11/08
Andy Windsor	Recreation	Access/Transportation	7/16/08
Megan McGuire	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife, T&E Species	7/17/08
Joe Stout	P&EC	NEPA Compliance	7/29/08

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: A cultural resource inventory (Report #CR-08-35) for the Confluence parking lot area was completed. No new or previously known cultural resource site lies within the proposed parking lot. The launch areas are within developed parking and launch areas that have been previously inventoried for the activities taking place with the race. Thus, the Proposed Action would not affect historic properties.

Native American Religious Concerns: Tribal consultation for the race and overflow parking area was initiated on May 9, 2008. To date, no tribe has identified areas of traditional cultural concerns within the project area.

Threatened and Endangered Species: There would be no impact to threatened, endangered, or sensitive species.

Access and Transportation: The access road to the Confluence Recreation Site would be closed to non-event traffic the morning of the race. Anyone wanting access to the recreation site would have to use the shuttle buses or wait until after all event staff and participants were on the water and the access road was reopened. The proposed closure of Launch #3 would not impact access

to the river. Launch #1 and #2 would be available to the public. All facilities including the campground, toilets, and parking would be available to the public during the closure period.

NAME OF PREPARER: Andy Windsor

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Joe Stout

DATE: 7/29/08

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1). Standard Cultural Stipulations
- 2). Traffic/Parking Plan
- 3). Event Management Plan

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have reviewed this CER and have decided to implement the proposed action.

This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an extraordinary circumstance and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ David Stout

DATE SIGNED: 7/30/08

Attachment #1

Standard Cultural & Paleontological stipulations:

The holder shall immediately bring to the attention of the Authorized Officer any and all antiquities, or other objects of historic, paleontological, or scientific interest including but not limited to, historic or prehistoric ruins or artifacts DISCOVERED as a result of operations under this authorization (16 U.S.C. 470.-3, 36 CFR 800.112). The holder shall immediately suspend all activities in the area of the object and shall leave such discoveries intact until written approval to proceed is obtained from the Authorized Officer. Approval to proceed will be based upon evaluation of the object(s). Evaluation shall be by a qualified professional selected by the Authorized Officer from a Federal agency insofar as practicable (BLM Manual 8142.06E). When not practicable, the holder shall bear the cost of the services of a non-Federal professional.

Within five working days the Authorized Officer will inform the holder as to:

- Whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- The mitigation measures the holder will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
- A timeframe for the Authorized Officer to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the Authorized Officer are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the holder wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the Authorized Officer will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the holder will be responsible for mitigation costs. The Authorized Officer will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the Authorized Officer that the required mitigation has been completed, the holder will then be allowed to resume construction.

Antiquities, historic, prehistoric ruins, paleontological or objects of scientific interest that are outside of the authorization boundaries but directly associated with the impacted resource will also be included in this evaluation and/or mitigation.

Antiquities, historic, prehistoric ruins, paleontological or objects of scientific interest, identified or unidentified, that are outside of the authorization and not associated with the resource within the authorization will also be protected. Impacts that occur to such resources, which are related to the authorizations activities, will be mitigated at the holder's cost.

Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder of this authorization must notify the Authorized Officer, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer.

Attachment #2: 2008 Gore Canyon Race Traffic/Parking Plan

Pumphouse: All vehicles associated with the race will be parked in the Launch #3 area or in a designated overflow parking area east of the Trough Road near the gravel pit. The event organizer will provide all the necessary signage, temporary fencing, and personnel to direct race traffic and efficiently park vehicles. Vehicles will be parked in such a manner as to maintain access in and out of the Launch # 3 area for outgoing traffic and emergency vehicles. All race traffic (operations, participants, and spectators) will be directed to park in the Launch #3 area, leaving the rest of the Pumphouse Recreation Site open to other public use. When the Launch #3 area is full, race vehicles will be directed to an overflow parking area east of the Trough Road. A shuttle bus will be used to transport people and equipment from the overflow parking area to the Launch #3 area and from Launch #3 area back to the overflow parking area. The Launch #3 area will be closed for public use from Friday afternoon, 8/15/08, through the duration of the race, Saturday evening, 8/16/08. Protective fencing will remain in place until Sunday morning, 8/17/08 (see maps below).

Confluence Put-in: The Confluence put-in will be closed for public use the morning of Saturday, 8/16/08, to accommodate race operations and participants. After all participants are on the water, the put-in will be reopened to the public. BLM personnel will be required to maintain the closure. A shuttle bus system will be used to move participants and equipment from Pumphouse to the Confluence.

